

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[c1] 1. A computer-implemented method for using predefined parsing information to analyze web site navigation data in order to identify occurrences of interest, the web site navigation data including information indicating times of occurrence and the predefined parsing information including information indicating occurrence times for which the predefined parsing information is effective, the method comprising:

for each of multiple distinct web sites each having multiple web pages,

receiving web site navigation data associated with the web site that has multiple entries each containing information related to a request for a web page of the web site and to a response to that request from a web site server for the web site, the contained information including a time of occurrence;

retrieving predefined parsing information associated with the web site that includes multiple distinct definitions of logical sites, multiple distinct definitions of event types, and multiple distinct definitions of category types, each logical site definition specifying an IP address and port number used by a web site server to provide at least some of the web pages of the web site and specifying times of occurrence to which the logical site definition applies, each event type definition specifying a type of request for a web page of the web site and specifying times of occurrence to which the event type definition applies, each category type definition specifying a group of web pages of the web site that are each related to a category and specifying times of occurrence to which the category type definition applies, and each of the event type definitions and category type definitions further specifying one of the defined logical sites;

for each entry of the received web site navigation data,

occurrences of that one event type or that one category type for each of those multiple entries, and wherein each of the multiple definitions for that one event type or one category type are used when determining to store the indications of the occurrences for at least one of those multiple entries.

[c8]

8. The method of claim 1 including, after the retrieving of the predefined parsing information associated with one of the web sites and before the analyzing of the information contained in the entries of the received web site navigation data associated with that one web site:

separating the logical site definitions, event type definitions and category type definitions into groups of definitions having the same specified times of occurrences; and

for each entry of the received web site navigation data associated with that one web site, selecting one of the groups of definitions for the entry based on the time of occurrence included in the contained information for the entry being within the specified times of occurrence for that one group of definitions, the selecting of the one group of definitions such that the analyzing and further analyzing of the information contained in that entry will only use definitions in the one group of definitions.

[c9]

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the predefined parsing information associated with one of the web sites further includes at least one exclusion definition that specifies a type of request or response and specifies times of occurrence of requests or responses of that type to which the exclusion definition applies, and wherein the analyzing of the information contained in an entry of the web site navigation data associated with that web site is not performed if the related request or response for that entry is of a type that matches a type specified for one of the exclusion definitions and if the time of occurrence included in the contained information for that entry is within the times of occurrences specified for that one exclusion definition.

[c10]

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the contained information for the entries of the received web site navigation data for one of the web sites further include an indication of a user from whom the related request was received, wherein the predefined parsing information associated with one of the web sites further includes multiple user definitions that each specify information about a user from whom a request may be received and specify times of occurrence to which the user definition applies, and including, for each entry of the received web site navigation data for that one web site:

analyzing the information contained in the entry to determine if the related request was from a user that matches one of the user definitions that specifies times of occurrence that include the time of occurrence included in the contained information; and

when the information contained in the entry indicates that the related request was from a user that matches one of the user definitions that specifies times of occurrence that include the time of occurrence included in the contained information, associating an indication of that user definition with any stored indications for that entry of occurrences of requests of types specified by event types and of requests for web pages that are members of groups specified by category types.

[c11]

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the contained information for the entries of the received web site navigation data for one of the web sites further include an indication of a product to which the related request corresponds, wherein the predefined parsing information associated with one of the web sites further includes multiple product definitions that each specify information about a product to which received requests may correspond and specify times of occurrence to which the product definition applies, and including, for each entry of the received web site navigation data for that one web site:

analyzing the information contained in the entry to determine if the related request corresponds to a product that matches one of the product

definitions that specifies times of occurrence that include the time of occurrence included in the contained information; and

when the information contained in the entry indicates that the related request was corresponds to a product that matches one of the product definitions that specifies times of occurrence that include the time of occurrence included in the contained information, associating an indication of that product definition with any stored indications for that entry of occurrences of requests of types specified by event types and of requests for web pages that are members of groups specified by category types.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 1 including, before the receiving of the web site navigation data for a web site, generating the parsing information associated with the web site based at least in part on a current version of the web site servers that can provide web pages of the web site, of the types of requests for web pages to which those web site server can respond, and of each group of the web pages that are each related to a category.

[c13] 13. The method of claim 12 including, after the generating of the parsing information associated with the web site:

receiving an indication of changes to the web site servers that can provide web pages of the web site, to the types of requests for web pages to which those web site server can respond, and/or to the groups of the web pages that are each related to a category; and

generating an updated version of the parsing information associated with the web site based at least in part on the indicated changes.

[c14] 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving of the web site navigation data associated with a web site includes retrieving at least one log file from at least one web site server for the web site, the retrieved log files containing the web site navigation data.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the received request from an operator of one of the web sites further specifies effective times such that the information to be provided is for occurrences of the specified event types or category types that took place during the effective times, and wherein the stored indications that are retrieved in response are for those occurrences.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the operator of one of the web sites from whom a request is received is at a remote location, and wherein the providing of the retrieved information to the operator includes generating a report that includes the retrieved information and sending the generated report to the remote location for presentation to the operator.

[c17] 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the operators of the multiple web sites are customers, and wherein the analyzing of the web site navigation data entries for the web sites is performed as a service for the customers.

[c18] 18. A computer-implemented method for analyzing interaction data to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions by using information about times of the occurrences, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of interaction data that is associated with a content set and that has at least one entry, each entry related to an interaction with the content set and including an indication of when the interaction occurred;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction with the content set and that are each applicable to interactions with the content set that occur at indicated times; and

for each entry of the interaction data,

determining whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions in such a manner that the related interaction for the entry is of the type specified by that interaction type definition and occurred at a time when that interaction type definition is indicated to be applicable; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, indicating an occurrence of that interaction type.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions are associated with one of multiple communication definitions that each specifies a manner of communicating content set interactions and is applicable to communicated interactions that occur at indicated times, and wherein the determining that the entry matches an interaction type definition includes determining that the related interaction for the entry was communicated in the manner specified by the communication definition associated with that interaction type definition and was communicated at a time when that communication definition is indicated to be applicable.

[c20] 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the manner of communicating content set interactions specified by each of the communication definitions includes using a specified group of communication parameters to communicate information related to an interaction.

[c21] 21. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interactions are a request for content from the content set, and wherein the indication of when the interaction occurred is a time of the request.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interactions include providing content from the content set, and wherein the indication of when the interaction occurred is a time of the providing.

[c23] 23. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interactions include receiving content from the content set, and wherein the indication of when the interaction occurred is a time of the receiving.

[c24] 24. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interactions related to the interaction data entries includes specifying a Uniform Resource Indicator.

[c25] 25. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interactions related to the interaction data entries includes requesting that functionality be provided.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions specifies a range of dates that indicates the times of the interactions with the content set to which the interaction type definition is applicable.

[c27] 27. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions specifies a range of hours during each day that indicates the times of the interactions with the content set to which the interaction type definition is applicable.

[c28] 28. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions specifies days during each week or during each month that indicates the times of the interactions with the content set to which the interaction type definition is applicable.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions specifies a version identifier that is associated with a range of time such that the range of time indicates the times of the interactions with the content set to which the interaction type definition is applicable.

[c30] 30. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions is an event type definition.

[c31] 31. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions is a category type definition.

- [c32] 32. The method of claim 18 wherein each of the interaction type definitions is an exclusion definition.
- [c33] 33. The method of claim 18 wherein one type of interaction has multiple associated interaction type definitions that each specify that one type of interaction but are applicable to interactions that occur at differing indicated times.
- [c34] 34. The method of claim 33 wherein a first entry that is related to a first interaction of the one type that occurred at a first time is determined to match a first of the multiple associated interaction type definitions and wherein a second entry that is related to a second interaction of the one type that occurred at a second time is determined to match a second of the multiple associated interaction type definitions.
- [c35] 35. The method of claim 18 including, before the determining of whether the entries match the interaction type definitions, separating the interaction type definitions into groups based on the indicated times of interactions to which the interaction type definitions are applicable.
- [c36] 36. The method of claim 35 wherein one type of interaction has multiple associated interaction type definitions that each specify that one type of interaction but are applicable to interactions that occur at differing indicated times, and wherein the multiple associated interaction type definitions are separated into different groups.
- [c37] 37. The method of claim 35 including, before each determining of whether an entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, selecting one of the groups of interaction type definitions based on the indicated times of interactions to which the interaction type definitions of that group are applicable, the selecting such that only the interaction type definitions in the selected group

are considered when determining whether the entry matches an interaction type definition.

[c38] 38. The method of claim 35 including, before any determining of whether an entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, selecting one of the groups of interaction type definitions based on the indicated times of interactions to which the interaction type definitions of that group are applicable, the selecting such that only the interaction type definitions in the selected group are considered when determining whether each of the entries matches an interaction type definition.

[c39] 39. The method of claim 18 including modifying the interaction type definitions based on changes to the content set.

[c40] 40. The method of claim 18 including wherein the indicating of the occurrences of the interaction types includes generating a report for presentation to a user based on the occurrences.

[c41] 41. The method of claim 18 wherein each indicating of an occurrence of an interaction type includes storing an indication of the occurrence that includes the time of occurrence of the interaction to which the stored indication corresponds.

[c42] 42. The method of claim 41 including receiving a request to provide information about occurrences at specified times of occurrence, and providing information from the stored indications about occurrences that correspond to the specified times of occurrence.

[c43] 43. The method of claim 41 including receiving a request to provide information about occurrences of specified types of interactions, and providing

information from the stored indications about occurrences of the specified types of interactions.

[c44] 44. The method of claim 18 wherein the content set is a web site with multiple web pages.

[c45] 45. The method of claim 18 wherein the content set is a service providing multiple features.

[c46] 46. The method of claim 18 wherein the content set is an executing program providing various functionalities.

[c47] 47. The method of claim 18 wherein the determining of whether the interaction data entries match the interaction type definitions is performed as a service for a customer.

[c48] 48. A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing device to analyze data to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions by using information about times of the occurrences, by performing a method comprising:

receiving an indication of data that is associated with a content set and that has at least one entry, each entry related to an interaction with the content set and including an indication of when the interaction occurred;

receiving an indication of multiple definitions that each specify a type of interaction with the content set and that are each applicable to interactions with the content set that occur at indicated times; and

for each entry of the data,

determining whether the entry matches one of the definitions in such a manner that the related interaction for the entry is of the type specified by

that definition and occurred at a time when that definition is indicated to be applicable; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the definitions, storing an indication of an occurrence of the specified interaction type for that definition.

[c49] 49. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 wherein the computer-readable medium is a memory of a computer system.

[c50] 50. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 wherein the computer-readable medium is a data transmission medium transmitting a generated data signal containing the contents.

[c51] 51. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 wherein the contents are instructions that when executed cause the computing device to perform the method.

[c52] 52. A computing device for analyzing interaction data to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions by using information about times of the occurrences, comprising:

an interaction data receiver component capable of receiving an indication of interaction data that is associated with a content set and that has at least one entry, each entry related to an interaction with the content set and including an indication of when the interaction occurred;

a definition receiver component capable of receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction with the content set and that are each applicable to interactions with the content set that occur at indicated times; and

an interaction data parsing component capable of, for each entry of the interaction data, determining whether the entry matches one of the interaction

type definitions in such a manner that the related interaction for the entry is of the type specified by that interaction type definition and occurred at a time when that interaction type definition is indicated to be applicable, and of indicating an occurrence of an interaction type when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions that specify that interaction type.

[c53] 53. The computing device of claim 52 wherein the interaction data receiver component, definition receiver component and interaction data parsing component are executing in memory of the computing device.

[c54] 54. A computing device for analyzing interaction data to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions by using information about times of the occurrences, comprising:

means for receiving an indication of interaction data that is associated with a content set and that has at least one entry, each entry related to an interaction with the content set and including an indication of when the interaction occurred;

means for receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction with the content set and that are each applicable to interactions with the content set that occur at indicated times; and

means for, for each entry of the interaction data,

determining whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions in such a manner that the related interaction for the entry is of the type specified by that interaction type definition and occurred at a time when that interaction type definition is indicated to be applicable; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, indicating an occurrence of that interaction type.

[c55]

55. A computer-implemented method for analyzing interaction data for a web site to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions using information about times of the occurrences, comprising:

receiving an indication of multiple interaction data entries each containing information about an interaction with a web site, the contained information for each entry including a specified URL and a time of occurrence related to the interaction, each of the specified URLs optionally including a URL path portion and optionally including a query string portion;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction and each have associated interaction times during which the interaction type definition is applicable to interactions that occur, have a URL path pattern capable of matching at least one URL path related to the interaction type, and have a query string pattern capable of matching at least one query string related to the interaction type; and

for each entry,

analyzing the entry to determine whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions by containing information about an interaction of the type specified by that one interaction type definition and by including a time of occurrence that is among the interaction times during which that one interaction type definition is applicable, the matching such that the specified URL in the contained information for the entry includes a URL path portion that matches the URL path pattern specified in that one interaction type definition and includes a query string portion that matches the query string pattern specified in that one interaction type definition; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, storing an indication of an occurrence of that interaction type for the web site.

[c56]

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the contained information about each interaction further includes information related to a manner of identifying a

web site server with which the interaction occurred, wherein each of the interaction type definitions is associated with a logical site definition that specifies a manner of identifying a web site server related to the web site and that specifies times when that logical site definition is applicable, and wherein the determining that an entry matches an interaction type definition further includes determining that the entry includes information related to the manner of identifying the web site server that matches the manner of identifying a web site server specified by the logical site definition associated with that interaction type definition and that the time of occurrence included in the contained information for the entry is among the interaction times during which that logical site definition is specified to be applicable.

[c57] 57. The method of claim 55 wherein at least some of the interaction type definitions include multiple interaction patterns that each specify a distinct combination of a URL path pattern capable of matching at least one URL path and a query string pattern capable of matching at least one query string, and wherein an entry is determined to match an interaction type definition having multiple interaction patterns if, for any of the interaction patterns, the specified URL in the contained information for the entry includes a URL path portion that matches the URL path pattern specified in that interaction pattern and includes a query string portion that matches the query string pattern specified in that interaction pattern.

[c58] 58. The method of claim 55 wherein the associated interaction times for each of the interaction type definitions includes a range of dates.

[c59] 59. The method of claim 55 wherein each of the interaction type definitions specifies a version identifier that is associated with a range of time, and wherein the associated interaction times for each of the interaction type definitions is the range of time associated with the version identifier specified by that interaction type definition.

[c60] 60. The method of claim 55 wherein each of the interaction type definitions is an event type definition.

[c61] 61. The method of claim 55 wherein each of the interaction type definitions is a category type definition.

[c62] 62. The method of claim 55 wherein at least some of the specified URLs include an empty query string portion or an empty URL path portion.

[c63] 63. The method of claim 55 including presenting information for at least some of the stored indications.

[c64] 64. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that when executed cause a computer system to analyze data for a web site to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions using information about times of the occurrences, by performing a method comprising:

receiving an indication of multiple data entries each containing information about an interaction with a web site, the contained information for each entry including a specified URL and a time of occurrence related to the interaction, each of the specified URLs optionally including a URL path portion and optionally including a query string portion;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction and each have associated interaction times during which the interaction type definition is applicable to interactions that occur, have a URL path pattern capable of matching at least one URL path related to the interaction type, and have a query string pattern capable of matching at least one query string related to the interaction type; and

for each entry,

analyzing the entry to determine whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions by containing information about an

interaction of the type specified by that one interaction type definition and by including a time of occurrence that is among the interaction times during which that one interaction type definition is applicable, the matching such that the specified URL in the contained information for the entry includes a URL path portion that matches the URL path pattern specified in that one interaction type definition and includes a query string portion that matches the query string pattern specified in that one interaction type definition; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, storing an indication of an occurrence of that interaction type for the web site.

[c65]

65. A method for analyzing interaction data for a web site to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions using information about times of the occurrences, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of multiple interaction data entries each containing information including a URL corresponding to a web site that was specified during a request and including a time of occurrence related to the request, each of the specified URLs including a URL path portion and a query string portion;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction, each interaction type definition including multiple distinct interaction patterns that each have associated interaction occurrence times for which the interaction pattern is effective and that each specify a distinct combination of a URL path pattern capable of matching at least one URL path and a query string pattern capable of matching at least one query string; and

for each entry,

analyzing the entry to determine whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions by containing information about an interaction of the type specified by that one interaction type definition, the

matching such that, for at least one of the interaction patterns included in that one interaction type definition, the information contained in the entry includes a specified URL whose URL path portion and query string portion match the URL path pattern and the query string pattern specified in that interaction pattern and includes a time of occurrence that is among the interaction occurrence times for which that interaction pattern is effective; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, storing an indication of an occurrence of that interaction type for the web site.

[c66] 66. The method of claim 65 wherein the contained information for each entry further includes information related to a manner of identifying a web site server that responded to the request for that entry, wherein each of the interaction type definitions is associated with a logical site definition that specifies a manner of identifying a web site server related to the web site and that specifies times when that logical site definition is applicable, and wherein the determining that an entry matches an interaction type definition further includes determining that the entry includes information related to the manner of identifying the web site server that matches the manner of identifying a web site server specified by the logical site definition associated with that interaction type definition and that the time of occurrence included in the contained information for the entry is among the interaction times during which that logical site definition is specified to be applicable.

[c67] 67. The method of claim 65 wherein at least some of the included URLs include a query string portion that is empty or a URL path portion that is empty.

[c68] 68. The method of claim 65 wherein the associated interaction times for each of the interaction type definitions includes a range of dates.

[c69] 69. The method of claim 65 including presenting information for at least some of the stored indications.

[c70] 70. A computer-implemented method for analyzing interaction data to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions by using information about when interactions occur, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of interaction data that is associated with a content set and that has multiple entries, each entry related to an interaction with the content set and containing information that includes an identifier related to when the interaction occurred;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a type of interaction with the content set and have an indication of a version such that the interaction type definition is applicable to interactions related to that version; and

for each entry,

determining whether the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions by containing information about an interaction of the type specified by that one interaction type definition and by containing an identifier that corresponds to the version indicated for that one interaction type definition; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the interaction type definitions, indicating an occurrence of that interaction type.

[c71] 71. The method of claim 70 wherein each identifier is a version identifier, and wherein an identifier is determined to match a version indicated by an interaction type definition if the indicated version is compatible with the version identified by the identifier.

[c72] 72. The method of claim 70 wherein each identifier is a version identifier, and wherein an identifier is determined to match a version indicated by

an interaction type definition if the indicated version is identical to the version identified by the identifier.

[c73] 73. The method of claim 70 wherein each identifier indicates a time, and wherein an identifier is determined to match a version indicated by an interaction type definition if the indicated version is applicable at the time indicated by the identifier.

[c74] 74. The method of claim 73 wherein each version has associated effective times that indicate the times at which the version is applicable.

[c75] 75. The method of claim 70 wherein each identifier contained in an entry is a value of a specified query parameter name from a query string portion of a specified URL for that entry.

[c76] 76. The method of claim 70 wherein each identifier contained in an entry is a portion of a URL path portion of a specified URL for that entry.

[c77] 77. A computer-implemented method for analyzing interaction data for a web site to identify occurrences of defined types of interactions using information about times of the occurrences, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of interactions with a web site that each specify a URL, a first of the interactions occurring at a first time and specifying a first URL and a second of the interactions occurring at a second time and also specifying the first URL;

receiving an indication of multiple interaction type definitions that each specify a URL pattern and associated interaction times during which that interaction type definition is applicable to interactions that occur;

determining that the first interaction matches only a first of the interaction type definitions, the matching such that the first URL specified in the

first interaction matches the URL pattern of both the first interaction type definition and a second interaction type definition and such that the first time at which the first interaction occurred is among the interaction times during which the first interaction type definition is applicable but is not among the interaction times during which the second interaction type definition is applicable;

determining that the second interaction matches only a second of the interaction type definitions, the matching such that the first URL specified in the second interaction matches the URL pattern of both the first interaction type definition and the second interaction type definition and such that the second time at which the second interaction occurred is among the interaction times during which the second interaction type definition is applicable but is not among the interaction times during which the first interaction type definition is applicable; and

based on the determined matches, providing indications of occurrences of each of the first and second interaction types.

[c78] 78. The method of claim 77 wherein a third of the interactions occurred at a third time and specified the first URL, and including determining that the third interaction does not match any of the interaction type definitions.

[c79] 79. The method of claim 77 wherein a third of the interactions occurred at the first time and specified a third URL, and including determining that the third interaction does not match any of the interaction type definitions.

[c80] 80. The method of claim 77 wherein a third of the interactions occurred at a third time and specified the first URL, and including determining that the third interaction matches multiple of the interaction type definitions.

[c81] 81. The method of claim 77 wherein a third of the interactions occurred at the first time and specified a third URL, and including determining that the third interaction matches multiple of the interaction type definitions.

[c82]

82. A computer-implemented method for analyzing usage data to identify occurrences of defined types of uses, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of usage data associated with a provided service or an executing computer program, the usage data having multiple entries each related to a distinct use of the provided service or executing computer program and each including an indication of when the use occurred;

receiving an indication of multiple definitions that each specify a type of use of the provided service or executing computer program and that each are applicable to uses that occur at indicated times; and

for each entry of the usage data,

determining whether the entry matches one of the definitions in such a manner that the related use for the entry is of the type specified by that definition and occurred at a time when that definition is indicated to be applicable; and

when it is determined that the entry matches one of the definitions, indicating an occurrence of that type of use.

[c83]

83. The method of claim 82 wherein the provided service or the executing computer program has multiple features available for use, and wherein the types of uses specified by the definitions correspond to uses of one or more of the available features.